step, from the storage medium, by referring to the identification information; and

calculating coordinate data of an outline point of a pattern to be output, based on the weight value input in said inputting step and the coordinate data and the vector data acquired in said acquiring step.--

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REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 25, 2000. Claims 124-134 are presented for examination, having been added in place of Claims 108-123, which have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Claims 124 and 134 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 108-123 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious from *Seto* (U.S. Patent 5,398,311) in view of *Kokunishi et al.* (U.S. Patent 4,897,638) and *Sakurai* (U.S. Patent 5,562,350).

The cancellation of Claims 108-123 renders this rejection moot.

With regard to added Claims 124-134, Applicant offers the following comments.

Independent Claim 124 is directed to an outline forming apparatus, comprising a storage medium that stores certain data. The stored data include a plurality of coordinate data, including coordinate data indicating a first outline point of a pattern corresponding to a first weight value and coordinate data indicating a second outline point of a pattern corresponding to a second weight value. The second weight value indicates a weight value at which vector data change. The storage medium also stores a plurality of vector data, including vector data indicating a movement track of the first outline point to the second outline point and vector data indicating a movement track of the second outline point. Also stored is identification information indicating correspondence between vector data and a weight value. The apparatus further comprises an inputter, for inputting a weight value, and an acquiring unit, which is arranged for acquiring coordinate and vector data corresponding to the weight value input by the inputter, from the storage medium, by referring to the identification information. The apparatus further comprises a calculation unit, arranged for calculating coordinate data of an outline point of a pattern to be output, based on the weight value

input by the inputter and the coordinate data and the vector data acquired by the acquiring unit.

One important feature of Claim 1 is the selection by weight value of vector data from a plurality of stored vector data that correspond to thicknesses of a contour of a displayed or printed character. The above feature generates, based on a designated weight value, thicknesses of the contour, such that the pattern of the character is maintained at different weight values.

Seto relates to character processing that involves moving outline points in a horizontal direction to maintain horizontal line width of a pattern, or in a vertical direction to maintain vertical line width of a pattern. According to *Seto*, each outline point moves in only a horizontal or vertical direction. Applicant submits that nothing in *Seto* would teach or suggest changing movement tracks of outline points (as opposed to line thickness), based on a weight value.

Kokunishi relates to generating outline data from skeleton data and width data. According to *Kokunishi*, a predetermined sequence is applied so as to generate various line widths; see Fig. 5 and column 11, lines 17-65. Nothing has been found in *Kokunishi*, however, that would teach or

suggest changing movement tracks of outline points based on a weight value.

Sakurai relates to an output apparatus that selects a font or a pattern from among plural vector character fonts or patterns, each of which is assigned an effective size range. Again, however, Applicant submits that nothing in *Sakurai* would teach or suggest moving an outline point in accordance with a designated weight value.

As argued above, Applicant believes that one of ordinary skill would find nothing in these three references, taken separately or in any combination (assuming such combination would be permissible), that would teach or suggest storing a plurality of vector data which indicates movement tracks of outline points, and changing vector data for the purpose of determining movement tracks of outline points based on a designated weight value. For at least this reason, Claim 124 is deemed to be clearly allowable over this art.

Independent Claim 134 is a method claim corresponding to apparatus Claim 124, and is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 124.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

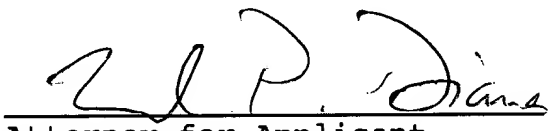
The other claims in this application are each dependent from independent Claim 124, and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and its entry is therefore believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. In any event, however, entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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